



## Functional language for guests and hosts in restaurants

*Listen to your teacher saying some typical restaurant language when you take a guest out for dinner. Without looking at the list below, decide if each line is said by a guest or a host.*

*Label each section below with G for guest or H for host.*

- (No, no, I insist). You are my guest today.
- Are you ready for dessert?
- Help yourself.
- It's on me.
  
- Are you allergic to anything?
- Do you like spicy food?
- Is there anything you can't eat?
- Is there anything you don't eat?
- Is there anything you don't like?
  
- Do people generally order together or different things each?
- Do you know where the bathroom/ restroom/ powder room is?
- Have you tried this before?
  
- How about trying...?
- It goes well with...
- We usually eat it...
- We usually share dishes, if that is okay.
  
- How's your steak?
- Is this kind of food popular in your country?
  
- I had a big lunch, so...
- If you don't mind, I'd prefer...
- I'm afraid I don't drink.
- That's very kind, but I couldn't eat another thing.
  
- I'll definitely come back here again.
- I'll recommend this place to my colleagues.
- Thank you very much for your hospitality. I'll do the same for you some time.
  
- I think I'd like to try...
- It all sounds/ looks so nice. I really can't decide.
- I'll have whatever you're having.
- I'll let you order (for both of us).
- This/ That sounds nice.



- Is anything on the menu vegetarian?
- Is this dish vegetarian, do you know?
- This looks interesting. Do you know what it is?
- What does this one taste like?
  
- Shall I order another bottle?
- Shall I order some more...?
- Shall we get a starter?
  
- That was delicious.
- You are too kind!
- You must email me a recipe for this so I can try and cook it at home.
  
- What would you like to drink?
- Would you like another drink?
- Would you like to see the dessert menu?
- Would you like to try...?
  
- What was this one called again?
- What would you recommend for vegetarians?
- What's in it?
- Would you recommend the fish?
  
- Please let me pay.
  
- This looks like a nice place. Do you come here often?
  
- You can use chopsticks very well.
- Can you eat sushi?

*One section above is actually things you probably shouldn't say. Do you know which one it is?*

*What is the function of each of the other sections above?*

*Match the sections above with the functions below the fold. Some categories are true for both guest and host.*

- 
- Asking for information**
  - Complimenting/ Thanking**
  - Just making conversation**
  - Offering**
  - Recommending/ Suggesting**
  - Refusing/ Turning down an offer**
  - Requesting**
  - Probably not a good idea**



## Suggested answers

*Sentences in each section are arranged alphabetically.*

### Host

#### Offering

- (No, no, I insist). You are my guest today.
- Are you ready for dessert?
- Help yourself.
- It's on me.
- Shall I order another bottle?
- Shall I order some more...?
- Shall we get a starter?
- What would you like to drink?
- Would you like another drink?
- Would you like to see the dessert menu?
- Would you like to try...?

#### Asking for information

- Are you allergic to anything?
- Do you like spicy food?
- Is there anything you can't eat?
- Is there anything you don't eat?
- Is there anything you don't like?

#### Recommending/ Suggesting

- How about trying...?
- It goes well with...
- We usually eat it...
- We usually share dishes, if that is okay.

#### Just making conversation

- How's your steak?
- Is this kind of food popular in your country?

### Guest

#### Asking for information

- Do people generally order together or different things each?
- Do you know where the bathroom/ restroom/ powder room is?
- Have you tried this before?
- Is anything on the menu vegetarian?
- Is this dish vegetarian, do you know?
- This looks interesting. Do you know what it is?
- What does this one taste like?
- What was this one called again?



- What would you recommend for vegetarians?
- What's in it?
- Would you recommend the fish?

#### **Refusing/ Turning down an offer**

- I had a big lunch, so...
- If you don't mind, I'd prefer...
- I'm afraid I don't drink.
- That's very kind, but I couldn't eat another thing.

#### **Requesting**

- I think I'd like to try...
- It all sounds/ looks so nice. I really can't decide.
- I'll have whatever you're having.
- I'll let you order (for both of us).
- This/ That sounds nice.

#### **Complimenting/ Thanking**

- I'll definitely come back here again.
- I'll recommend this place to my colleagues.
- Thank you very much for your hospitality. I'll do the same for you some time.
- That was delicious.
- You are too kind!
- You must email me a recipe for this so I can try and cook it at home.

#### **Offering**

- Please let me pay.

#### **Just making conversation**

- This looks like a nice place. Do you come here often?

#### **Probably not a good idea**

- You can use chopsticks very well.
- Can you eat sushi?

*Test each other in pairs or small groups:*

- 1. Identify if they are guest or host*
- 2. Identify the function*
- 3. Brainstorm phrases for one function, with your partner helping you if you get stuck*
- 3. Brainstorm phrases for guest or host, with your partner helping you if you get stuck*

*Can you think of any other phrases with the same function for entertaining a foreign guest in a bar or at a sporting event?*



**Cards for students to hold up when listening to the phrases (optional)**

*Give each student one of each card.*

**Host**

**Guest**

**Host**

**Guest**

**Host**

**Guest**